

## Abstract

The present invention relates to a method for detecting the occupancy state of a seat (1), especially in a vehicle (5), and for use in activating means of restraint (8) allocated to  
5 the seat (1), as a function of the occupancy state, in which, with the aid of an image recording system (16), a 3D image (15) of the seat (1) is recorded and evaluated with respect to the occupancy state, and possibly also with respect to the type of the occupancy, as well as a device for carrying out  
10 the method. For the evaluation, according to the present invention, a 3D pattern (14) is drawn upon, which is available externally or which is able to be generated internally in an initialization step. A hierarchically constructed evaluation also permits, after determination of an occupancy state, a  
15 classification with respect to the type of the respective occupancy.

[Fig. 1]